

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

IN RE: Chapter 11  
Case No. 25-10006 (TMH)  
  
LIGADO NETWORKS LLC, (Jointly Administered)  
et al.,  
  
Debtors. Courtroom No. 7  
824 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801  
  
Friday, August 29, 2025  
1:00 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE THOMAS M. HORAN  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

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## Agenda

Item 5: (SEALED) Debtors' Motion for an Order (I) Enforcing the AST Order and Mediated Agreement and (II) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 826; filed August 14, 2025]

## Agenda

Item 6: AST'S Motion to (I) Redact and File Under Seal the AST Objection and Joinder and Exhibits Thereto and (II) Grant Related Relief [Docket No. 905; filed August 27, 2025]

Court's Ruling:

30

1 (Proceedings commenced at 1:00 p.m.)

2 THE COURTROOM OFFICER: All rise.

3 THE COURT: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

4 Mr. Leblanc.

5 MR. LEBLANC: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Andrew  
6 Leblanc of Milbank on behalf of Ligado. Your Honor, I am  
7 joined in the courtroom here by some of my colleagues but  
8 also by Vicky McPherson, the general counsel of Ligado. It's  
9 her first time appearing, so I wanted to make sure Your Honor  
10 was aware that she is here.

11 Your Honor, we are ready to proceed with the  
12 arguments. I do have a slide deck to aid in the argument if  
13 I may approach, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Sure.

15 MR. LEBLANC: How many copies do you want, Your  
16 Honor?

17 THE COURT: One for me and one for one of my law  
18 clerks in the back row in the white jacket.

19 MR. LEBLANC: Okay, we will get that to her.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 MR. LEBLANC: May I approach, Your Honor?

22 THE COURT: Yes, please. Thank you.

23 I am going to offer a few comments before we get  
24 going.

25 You won't be surprised that, you know, we spent a

1 great deal of time dealing with this. There are a lot of  
2 arguments that require a lot of consideration but in the end,  
3 ultimately what my role here is to look at the mediated  
4 agreement, which I am going to call the "settlement term  
5 sheet" because you got a defined term in there, "mediated  
6 agreements," that does not actually include defined term  
7 "mediated agreement." So, I am just going to call it the  
8 "settlement term sheet."

9           The settlement term sheet it says what the  
10 agreement of the parties was. It says here are the terms, go  
11 incorporate it into the mediated agreements and if anybody  
12 wants to change anything you go to agree on it, and if  
13 there's a dispute down the road bring it to the SDNY.

14           So, I feel that my role here is to look at that  
15 settlement term sheet and see what it says. This is not a  
16 criticism of anybody but the -- I think the arguments of the  
17 parties simultaneously make a lot of sense and make no sense;  
18 only in the respect that it feels to me like on the one hand  
19 Inmarsat is saying that AST agreed to something that just me,  
20 you know, as somebody who doesn't know a lot about AST and  
21 its business other than what is presented here, I think why  
22 would they have ever done that. And AST is saying the same  
23 about Inmarsat, like why would Inmarsat agree to do that but  
24 that is not something that I should decide. I shouldn't  
25 decide what commercial arrangements the parties agree to.

1           So, Inmarsat said something that I agree with and  
2 has kind of guided the way I think I'm turning out on this,  
3 and I'm going to hear from the parties but, you know,  
4 Inmarsat says that the parties, under the plain language of  
5 the mediated agreement, the settlement term sheet they're  
6 bound to exist the geographic and other limits with the  
7 cooperation agreement and bound to sign definitive documents  
8 reflecting that agreement. That last part "bound to sign the  
9 definitive documents" that is what the mediated agreement  
10 tells you to do.

11           They also say if and when AST or Ligado seeks to  
12 operate in a manner implicating the parties underlying  
13 dispute over the meats and bounds of the cooperation  
14 agreement, that dispute can be resolved in the appropriate  
15 forum in the context of a concrete factual dispute. I tend  
16 to agree with those things.

17           You know, if we were in California and I was  
18 giving that tentative ruling I would say I think I'm just  
19 denying both motions and saying go take the terms that are  
20 contained in the settlement term sheet, write them into the  
21 mediated agreements, as defined in the settlement term sheet,  
22 and if you got a problem later you have already decided where  
23 to handle it.

24           So, if a problem comes up later, go deal with it  
25 there because I just don't -- I don't see what basis I would

1 have to determine that any of the parties here have described  
2 for me a basis upon which I can find that the settlement term  
3 sheet supports their arguments. I think it all impedes too  
4 much to the other side of the dispute and I would be doing an  
5 awful lot of, I guess, interpretation without really  
6 understanding what my basis would be for doing so to impute  
7 agreements or motivations to the parties either by the  
8 absence of language or reading things into the words that I  
9 think are just beyond what I can really gather from the  
10 mediated agreement.

11           While that could be a reason to say, well, then  
12 bring in the intrinsic evidence, I'm not sure that's right  
13 either because, first of all, this resulted from mediation. I  
14 don't want to hear what the parties said at mediation nor is  
15 it appropriate for anybody to bring that to me. So, I kind  
16 of feel like this is what I'm left with.

17           So, I am open to hearing from the parties but I  
18 feel like I'm there.

19           MR. LEBLANC: Your Honor, I'm actually -- if Your  
20 Honor -- if Chambers could give authority to Victoria  
21 Colbert, she will share her screen so that others can see the  
22 slides.

23           Your Honor will see, my first slide I think says  
24 exactly what the Court just said it was inclined to do. We  
25 do not disagree with that. We and AST are prepared, and Ms.

1 Primoff can speak for her client, one hundred percent to  
2 incorporate exactly the words of the settlement term sheet  
3 into the (indiscernible) agreement and into the separate  
4 agreement between AST and Inmarsat.

5 In the case of the cooperation agreement, that's  
6 Section 2, 3 and 4. In the case of the AST/Inmarsat  
7 agreement that is Sections 2 and 3. We, one hundred percent,  
8 agree with that. There would be no dispute if that -- if  
9 everybody agrees to that then we too are done, Your Honor,  
10 because that is what we agreed to and we don't want to change  
11 that at all.

12 The issue has been that that has not been  
13 acceptable to Inmarsat. They have said that to realize these  
14 commitments that are made in the settlement agreement we need  
15 to change the words that are contained in it in ways that we  
16 don't think are consistent with what was agreed. So, Your  
17 Honor, this can be a very short hearing.

18 If you look at slide 3 of what I just handed up,  
19 and it's on the screen, Your Honor, that is literally what we  
20 say. We are content, and I will stop. I have 37 pages of  
21 slides. I don't want to go through any of them. If Your  
22 Honor is inclined to just say to the parties go and  
23 incorporate exactly those words, verbatim, we are prepared to  
24 do that.

25 THE COURT: Look, the reason why I mentioned the



1 language in it -- what was Inmarsat's objection to the  
2 debtors motion to enforce is that based on the way I read  
3 that and understand that language I agree, and it sounds like  
4 you agree, but it seemed to be somewhat at odds with the  
5 arguments that I understood Inmarsat to be making about, you  
6 know, what language has to appear in the definitive  
7 documents.

8 I just want to say, I think they hit the nail on  
9 the head with that language. What you agree to, put it in  
10 there as you agreed to do, and you're done.

11 MR. LEBLANC: Your Honor, I think we are in wild  
12 agreement. What I know -- and if Your Honor will indulge me  
13 for two minutes --

14 THE COURT: Of course. We have time.

15 MR. LEBLANC: -- I'm going to argue the first five  
16 slots and not the next 32 until I hear Mr. Finestone's  
17 position on this. Let me illustrate why in that same  
18 opposition, because you're referring to their most recent  
19 opposition, well, obviously, in their opening brief they ask  
20 the Court to find that AST could not operate outside North  
21 America. Now they said you don't have the jurisdiction to do  
22 so. That is fine. We are fine with that determination not  
23 being made.

24 The key component of it is, Your Honor, if you  
25 look at page 6 of our slide deck, Your Honor, this cuts and

1 pastes from -- this is directly taken from the end of the  
2 preliminary statement of the Inmarsat objection. These are  
3 Paragraphs 14 and 15. This, Your Honor, is exactly the  
4 issue.

5           They say that write A in the settlement agreement  
6 says the following. I have a lot to say about writer A, which  
7 is, I think Your Honor would recognize as a Delaware lawyer  
8 is just a standard stipulation that the parties agreed there  
9 is irreparable harm in the event of a breach does not create  
10 new contract obligations. It's just an irreparable harm  
11 stipulation.

12           They say, in the next paragraph, to realize these  
13 commitments this is how we have chosen to change the words in  
14 the co-op agreement. That is where we have a problem. If  
15 they want to -- if everyone is content to just pick up the  
16 words of the mediated agreement, the settlement term sheet,  
17 to use Your Honor's phraseology. To pick up the words of the  
18 settlement term sheet we are done and we have agreed to that.

19           No one on our side is trying to change what we  
20 agreed to in the mediation. We are just trying to hone to  
21 exactly what it is. I agree with Your Honor, if we can agree  
22 to make changes to it when we incorporated it into the co-op  
23 agreement, but if we can't agree then we just default to the  
24 language that was agreed to in the settlement term sheet and  
25 we are done.

1           We very much need to get to confirmation from an  
2 economic perspective and this has taken us a huge amount of  
3 time to get to a point where all we want to do is incorporate  
4 the settlement term sheet that we have agreed to. That was  
5 the subject of that mediation. I agree with Your Honor, if  
6 there are later disputes about what that means in this  
7 context that is fine. But what we don't do is what this page  
8 shows that they were actually asking in that very same  
9 document.

10           They are asking to modify those terms when they  
11 get incorporated. That we won't do because what they're  
12 asking to do is greatly expand what AST and Ligado have  
13 agreed to do. So, Your Honor, I think I'm in wild agreement  
14 with the Court. If that is, in fact, what Inmarsat is  
15 suggesting -- if they are prepared, like we are, to live with  
16 the settlement term sheet and just bring those words verbatim  
17 into the co-op agreement, to make an amendment to the co-op  
18 agreement that incorporates Sections 2, 3, and 4 and to make  
19 an -- to enter into a new agreement with AST that  
20 incorporates Sections 2 and 3 we are done.

21           I will save the other 32 pages for something else.

22           THE COURT: Thank you.

23           MR. LEBLANC: Your Honor, so that is -- if we are  
24 not done -- in other words, if Inmarsat's position is that,  
25 in fact, to incorporate these terms there needs to be changes

1 to the words in the way that they're suggesting then we will  
2 need to go through the rest of this. I don't want to --  
3 Your Honor has opened a door that we would like to walk  
4 through. Obviously, AST should speak to this too because  
5 they would be bound by the same terms of the mediated  
6 agreement but my understanding is they are quite content, as  
7 are we, to live by the words that we had agreed to in the  
8 mediation.

9 THE COURT: Before I turn to Inmarsat, let me just  
10 ask if AST wants to add anything to that argument and then we  
11 will go from there.

12 Good afternoon. Good to have you here.

13 MS. PRIMOFF: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Madlyn  
14 Primoff from the Freshfields firm. With me today in the  
15 courtroom are my colleagues from Freshfields, but in addition  
16 we have Jose Leiman who is a representative from Ast.

17 THE COURT: Welcome, Mr. Leiman.

18 MR. LEIMAN: Thank you very much.

19 MS. PRIMOFF: Mr. Leblanc summed it up perfectly  
20 and I think we have made clear in our papers, Your Honor, and  
21 we make clear standing here before you that we are perfectly  
22 willing to have a side letter or a side agreement that  
23 incorporates -- that is consistent with the footnote 5 of the  
24 settlement term sheet in that we would sign up to Sections 2  
25 and 3 of the mediated agreement verbatim.

1 Just to put a bit of a gloss on this, we -- the  
2 parties, the debtors, Inmarsat, AST, did spend several weeks  
3 trying to do that and we didn't get there. People wanted to  
4 change terms and we didn't get there. So, we are willing to  
5 do it verbatim.

6 THE COURT: Understood. Thank you very much.

7 Mr. Finestone, good to have you here.

8 MR. FINESTONE: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Ben  
9 Finestone, Quinn Emanuel, on behalf of Inmarsat and Viasat  
10 today.

11 I will do two things in response to the Court's  
12 opening comments. First, I just want to clarify that this is  
13 not, in fact, what the debtors were asking for. In one of  
14 the first few paragraphs of their proposed order the debtor  
15 included language that said the Court finds that none of the  
16 AST order, mediated agreement, or the Inmarsat cooperation  
17 agreement preclude Ligado or AST from seeking separate rights  
18 to operate in the L-Band spectrum outside of North America.

19 So, just as a matter of procedure, the dispute  
20 that Your Honor is leaning towards thinking the Court needs  
21 to resolve they are, in fact, asking the Court to resolve.  
22 So, whatever happens today let's avoid by somehow -- that  
23 conclusion being slipped in from that --

24 THE COURT: I agree with you on that.

25 MR. FINESTONE: -- because that is -- yeah, this

1 is not what they say.

2 Now, you just heard two parties say to Your Honor  
3 that they don't think that the dispute -- and let me just  
4 capture the dispute just to at least identify it.

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 MR. FINESTONE: The dispute is, Your Honor, in  
7 substance, whether or not AST can operate -- can breach the  
8 limitations that are currently in Exhibit L to the  
9 cooperation agreement, a contract that goes back to 2010.  
10 You're right, the debtors and we have a disagreement about  
11 the scope of those limitations. We totally agree, the Court  
12 does not need to resolve that at all because let me just  
13 pledge here to the Court, as we did in our papers, on behalf  
14 of Inmarsat and on behalf of Viasat, not once in the  
15 mediation and not once in our papers submitted to this Court  
16 have we ever sought to improve our protections in that  
17 contract.

18 We are not trying to improve our protections in  
19 that contract. All we are asking for is, effectively, *cum*  
20 *onere*, vis-à-vis our debtor. And the only reason that this  
21 has gotten complex is because our debtor is not doing a  
22 simple assumption, in which case *cum onere* would end it, and  
23 our debtor is not even doing a simple assignment in which  
24 case *cum onere* is easy. They came to this Court with a  
25 spliced up added complexity to everything and that is the

1 only reason why this isn't easily resolved, I believe,  
2 without court intervention.

3           So, Your Honor, I am going to be an unpopular  
4 person here today because while I think Your Honor's proposed  
5 resolution would be procedurally fair to the parties, for  
6 sure. We are not trying to back out of the mediated  
7 agreement. The mediated agreement is the mediated agreement  
8 and it would be even-handed of the Court to just say stick  
9 the mediated agreement into an agreement.

10           Procedurally fair, no -- I do think there is a  
11 case or a controversy presented here because if you ask AST  
12 whether or not they believe that they are bound by the  
13 restrictions in Exhibit L, notwithstanding, in our mind, what  
14 the clear language of Exhibit L, which has to go in both our  
15 contracts with them, they will say they don't believe they  
16 are bound.

17           You heard Mr. Leblanc say, Your Honor, that one of  
18 the reasons why this is so important is because he's got  
19 other stakeholders, and he's a debtor, and he's got  
20 creditors. He doesn't have many employees but he's got  
21 creditors that, obviously, want to see their company get out  
22 of bankruptcy.

23           I'm not a debtor-in-possession, Your Honor, not in  
24 this Court or not in another district but I got other  
25 stakeholders too and my stakeholders -- I'm not talking about

1 my shareholders, Your Honor. What Inmarsat does outside of  
2 North America, this area that we are fighting so hard to  
3 protect, the benefit of our bargain and the contract that  
4 goes back to 2010, its not just a mere commercial operation.  
5 We provide the most important kind of services, far more  
6 important then allowing a company that doesn't really have  
7 any real operations to emerge from bankruptcy.

8 We ensure that information passes from distressed  
9 ships in the middle of the ocean to various coast guards. We  
10 ensure that a plane flying overhead can communicate with air  
11 traffic controllers if it needs to change routes. I say  
12 that, Your Honor, only because it is very difficult for us to  
13 say in the face of AST saying, yes, even though the debtor is  
14 bound by Exhibit L, we are not. That is a violation of *cum*  
15 *onere*, Your Honor, and that threatens way more then our stock  
16 price. This is a real controversy.

17 So, I have said it already, I will respect the  
18 Court not resolving that dispute but my request today is that  
19 the Court resolve the dispute because it is a case for  
20 controversy and, yes, counsel is going to stand up and change  
21 their mind. They changed their mind a lot in their papers  
22 but I don't think you are going to hear that.

23 They are going to say the deal they cut is better  
24 than the deal that the debtor had since 2010. They're going  
25 to say they're not bound by Exhibit L. If they stand up here



1 and say that our critical life-saving operations throughout  
2 the rest of the world are protected only to the same extent I  
3 have with Mr. Leblanc. I am not trying to improve that by a  
4 millimeter, Your Honor, I am really not. But if they stand  
5 up and say we don't have a better deal than the debtors then  
6 there is no case or controversy and I withdraw all of my  
7 comments but they won't say it, Your Honor. That is the  
8 reason why it was extremely frustrating that we believe  
9 they're not standing by the plain language of the term sheet,  
10 Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: I understand.

12 MR. FINESTONE: Those are my procedural comments.  
13 I would hold the substance of the argument and adhere to what  
14 the Court would like to do procedurally but I guess what I'm  
15 saying is if Your Honor tells us stick the term sheet  
16 language into the agreements, which by the way they accused  
17 us of trying to change things. We weren't trying to change  
18 things. The term sheet says take the substance of this term  
19 sheet and put it into agreements. Some words change but the  
20 substance doesn't change at all.

21 THE COURT: Yeah. Look, I get that. I don't want  
22 any of my comments to have been interpreted as being critical  
23 of the parties. I think there is very much a good faith  
24 dispute over -- Inmarsat says the clear import of the  
25 language is this. The debtor and AST also think that the

1 language has clear import but it means a very different  
2 thing. So, you know, I just view it as a good faith dispute.

3 MR. FINESTONE: I hope I didn't say anything to  
4 the contrary.

5 THE COURT: No.

6 MR. FINESTONE: Their papers were littered with  
7 absurd, their papers were littered with intentional  
8 misinterpretation, their papers were littered with  
9 disingenuous. I did take some offense to that. I am sorry  
10 to take Your Honor's comments and go on a segway but I did  
11 take offense to that when, in my experience, parties that use  
12 words like that are the ones that are not comfortable with  
13 the plain language of the agreement.

14 You didn't see that in our papers, Your Honor. We  
15 are not saying anything about bad faith or absurdity. We  
16 don't think we have to go there. But on behalf of all the  
17 lawyers that I worked with, documenting these agreements, I  
18 did take personal offence and I reject the notion that there  
19 was any disingenuity or intentional misinterpretation on our  
20 part when Your Honor always wanted to defend was one  
21 fundamental concept. I have said it a couple of times but  
22 its powerful in this Court, *cum onere*, that's it.

23 The reason we were defending it is for some pretty  
24 important operations that the debtor never has tried to  
25 interfere with but the money that they found, because the

1 debtor is unable to cure the contract, is an ambitious  
2 company that doesn't want to be burdened by the limitations  
3 of the contract. You know what, if AST did this directly  
4 with us, we could negotiate something in a private context  
5 but they did it through a debtor-in-possession with a  
6 prepetition contract and all bankruptcy practitioners know,  
7 you take the good, you take the bad.

8           You can't take the good and shed the bad. Its  
9 almost like a Texas two-step they're trying to do under 365.  
10 We are comfortable with the plain language. There is no  
11 question in my mind what AST is planning to do and if it's  
12 not resolved today, Your Honor, it will be resolved on  
13 another date. I respect whatever the Court will do.  
14 Obviously, I just think there is a lot of controversy, Your  
15 Honor.

16           THE COURT: I understand, Mr. Finestone. I  
17 appreciate that.

18           I will offer a note, just because you brought up  
19 your feelings about the language, disingenuous, bad faith,  
20 whatever. Just a little from the bench moment, I don't even  
21 see that language because if you have got to tell me that  
22 they were acting in bad faith, the better thing is just show  
23 me, give me facts, and I didn't perceive bad faith. I  
24 perceived it as a disagreement among the parties. Generally  
25 speaking, words like "absurd" and "disingenuous" have no

1 positive effect on the Judge.

2 MR. FINESTONE: Thank you, Your Honor. Those are  
3 my own personal insecurities reacting to those words.

4 THE COURT: Well, you know, they get used a lot.  
5 I had feelings about them in practice and sitting here I can  
6 just -- like I don't even see them because they don't mean  
7 anything to me unless there is a true -- the rare time when  
8 somebody really is taking a position that is absurd, like  
9 that is going to be evident from a lot of other contexts but  
10 that was just a bit of an aside. I appreciate the point you  
11 made about that.

12 Look, let's hear from AST. I mean you sort of  
13 threw down the gauntlet on are they going to be bound by --

14 MR. FINESTONE: Exhibit L. It's that simple, Your  
15 Honor.

16 THE COURT: Yeah.

17 MR. FINESTONE: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 Ms. Primoff.

20 MS. PRIMOFF: So, let's go back to first  
21 principles, Your Honor. We agree to the AST transaction with  
22 the debtors and the ad hoc lender groups, and we negotiate  
23 that over a period of months, and Inmarsat shows up in  
24 advance of the hearing to approve the AST transaction and  
25 they say pay us \$550 million. And we go out and raise that

1 money and commit to pay them \$535 million, 420 million of  
2 which is to be paid in a matter of weeks, before we have  
3 regulatory approval for the deal and, therefore, before we  
4 know that the deal can be consummated.

5 THE COURT: And I'm sorry to interrupt you. Am I  
6 right in recalling that under the agreement those payments  
7 would be returned in the event that there wasn't regulatory  
8 approval, or am I misremembering what that said?

9 MS. PRIMOFF: No, they're not returned by  
10 Inmarsat. The DIP lenders in this case have agreed to step  
11 up and backstop the return of those payments to AST, but if  
12 there's no regulatory approval, Inmarsat keeps the money.

13 So, now we're here and after we agreed in the  
14 mediation process to pay them this huge amount of money  
15 upfront, they say, oh, you know, you're precluded from going  
16 out to get non-Ligado L-band spectrum from third parties to  
17 use outside of North America. No, that was never part of the  
18 deal and that's never been part of anything that they said to  
19 this Court, and let's look at that.

20 So, if we go back to the Inmarsat objection, their  
21 initial objection before anybody went to mediation -- and  
22 this is Exhibit A to our papers -- and this goes right to the  
23 heart of the *cum onere* point -- they -- do you need a copy,  
24 Your Honor?

25 THE COURT: Just remind me what docket number that

1 is. I've got so many things in this binder. Or maybe, you  
2 know, what the agenda item --

3 MS. PRIMOFF: It's Docket 462.

4 THE COURT: Let me just find it in my binder, so I  
5 can get to that.

6 (Pause)

7 THE COURT: 462? That sounds really --

8 MR. FINESTONE: That's right, Your Honor. Our  
9 objection to the AST order in which we asserted *cum onere* is  
10 at 462.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Let me just get there. I  
12 think it may --

13 MR. LEBLANC: Your Honor, it's also --

14 THE COURT: -- I think it was attached as an  
15 exhibit --

16 MR. LEBLANC: -- it's Exhibit 5 to this hearing on  
17 our exhibit list. I don't know if that's useful.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, yeah. I knew I had seen  
19 it.

20 (Pause)

21 THE COURT: Okay, I'm there with you, Ms. Primoff.

22 MS. PRIMOFF: Okay. Thank you. So they  
23 acknowledge at paragraph that Ligado does not seek to assign  
24 the entirety of the cooperation agreement to AST, but rather  
25 only certain rights and economic benefits thereunder. And

1 they were focused throughout this objection on getting paid  
2 their money and they talked about the terms upon which they  
3 would consent to the transaction, and it was all focused on  
4 getting their money, but --

5 THE COURT: But this is all -- again, I apologize  
6 for interrupting you -- this is all months before the  
7 mediation occurred. The settlement was reduced to an  
8 agreement and whatever positions the parties staked out for  
9 the purposes of the litigation going on in this court, I'm  
10 not sure that that should inform what ultimately was agreed  
11 upon at mediation.

12 MS. PRIMOFF: It does inform, Your Honor, because  
13 when you read the totality of their paper they're saying,  
14 look -- they're not trying to do an assignment, right? If we  
15 were trying to do -- if the debtor were trying to do an  
16 assignment, then Inmarsat would not have a consent right, but  
17 Inmarsat does have a consent right because AST is not taking  
18 all of the benefits and burdens of the cooperation agreement.  
19 So, they were staking out what are the terms upon which we  
20 would be willing to consent and they were focused on the  
21 money. That's why I bring it up, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: See, the thing about the settlement  
23 term sheet, as I just read the express language of it, which  
24 is where I'm focused, it seems to just address -- unless I'm  
25 wrong, it seems to address like primarily the North American

1 issue, it talks about North American stuff. But the -- and,  
2 look, there are arguments about respecting the geographical  
3 limitations and all that, I acknowledge that, but I kind of  
4 wonder if I'm being too -- I'm being asked to interpret the  
5 absence of language that might more like really, explicitly,  
6 directly address the issues that are in dispute today to mean  
7 something, but it could cut both ways, right?

8 And that's kind of what led me to my initial  
9 comments, it would feel like I have to go beyond the terms of  
10 the settlement term sheet, but also guess at the business  
11 decisions that the parties made. Like there might be good  
12 reasons why one might say, you know, we're giving up the non-  
13 North America bandwidth, but I don't know. I mean, I would  
14 just be like guessing and --

15 MS. PRIMOFF: No, no, and I think Your Honor can  
16 do this without extrinsic evidence and without any particular  
17 knowledge about the space and satellite industry. We need to  
18 look at the mediated agreement, the settlement term sheet --

19 THE COURT: Yeah.

20 MS. PRIMOFF: -- together with the documents that  
21 were entered into at the same time, which is the  
22 collaboration agreement and Exhibit 6 to the collaboration  
23 agreement, and they struggle mightily to ignore looking at  
24 those issues, but it's the collaboration agreement and  
25 Exhibit 6 that define AST's obligations in this regard and



1 nothing in the settlement agreement takes away from that.

2 I mean, we can -- I'm happy to look at the  
3 provisions of the settlement agreement with Your Honor and  
4 let's --

5 THE COURT: Let me just -- Mr. Leblanc had stood  
6 up and I asked him to pause.

7 MR. LEBLANC: Only -- Your Honor, Andrew Leblanc  
8 on behalf of Ligado -- if you want a fulsome argument on  
9 this, I'm happy to do it, I was prepared --

10 THE COURT: Yeah.

11 MR. LEBLANC: -- to go ahead, and I will walk the  
12 through why this really is a North America agreement, I mean  
13 this settlement agreement. I also am prepared, if Your Honor  
14 wants to go there, to explain why the cooperation agreement  
15 itself is a North America agreement -- not why, but the fact  
16 that it is, and we can do that.

17 I mean, you have two parties to this settlement  
18 agreement saying we will live with the words that we agreed  
19 to, we're prepared to do that, and -- but, Your Honor,  
20 whatever you want to do. I'm happy to walk through and give  
21 Your Honor the reasons why -- the words were very carefully  
22 selected in here and what they're trying to have Your Honor  
23 impose on AST, that AST shall comply, AST as a company shall  
24 comply with all of the provisions of the co-op agreement do  
25 not exist in the settlement term sheet, with good reason.

1           The limitations that exist in the settlement term  
2 sheet relate to a particular satellite system operating in  
3 North America, that was -- it's very intentional, and it's  
4 why they look at an irreparable harm stipulation, which  
5 doesn't even say what they purport it to say, as their best  
6 evidence that the parties agreed -- that AST agreed strictly  
7 to comply with co-op agreement because that's the best they  
8 can do it, and it just doesn't say it. This would have been  
9 a one-line document if it said what they purport it to say,  
10 which is AST shall comply with all the limitations of the co-  
11 op agreement. You wouldn't have needed ten single-spaced  
12 pages in a term sheet to define that, if that's what was  
13 intended, it wasn't and they can't point to anything in it.

14           And so, Your Honor, again, we are prepared to live  
15 with taking, cutting and pasting the settlement term sheet  
16 into these agreements. We also think they're fundamentally  
17 wrong about what was agreed, and we're also prepared to argue  
18 it and get a decision from Your Honor as to whether or not  
19 AST more generally, AST as a company, is bound to whatever  
20 limitations they contend exist in the cooperation agreement  
21 imposed upon Ligado because they're wrong about that as well.

22           And we're also prepared to take the further step  
23 and argue, if AST is bound to the limits of the co-op  
24 agreement, I will also walk the Court through why the co-op  
25 agreement doesn't say what they think it says that it -- the

1 co-op agreement doesn't restrict Ligado's operations outside  
2 of North America in the L-band. We can walk through that as  
3 well, I'm happy to do it. I just -- I only stood, Your  
4 Honor, because if we're going to have the substantive  
5 argument, I'd like to lead for the company because this is  
6 really the company's agreement.

7 THE COURT: Yeah, I understand. And, you know,  
8 I'm still back where I started, to be frank, because I think  
9 that this was exactly the point, like this is the way that  
10 you interpret these documents, Mr. Finestone has a very  
11 different view of the world, and it -- based on the  
12 settlement term sheet, I don't see how -- I don't see how I  
13 reconcile that.

14 MS. PRIMOFF: Your Honor, I'm happy to cede the  
15 podium to Mr. Leblanc, who can make his presentation, and  
16 naturally reserve all rights on behalf of AST to interject  
17 later.

18 THE COURT: Yeah. I mean, look, I think you've  
19 heard my views on where I think this should go. I'm  
20 absolutely happy to hear it from you, if you want to make the  
21 presentation, I'm just not sure that -- I really have spent a  
22 great deal of time looking at the arguments and I'm not sure  
23 that it's going to, you know, fundamentally alter my analysis  
24 at this point, which is kind of what you would have to do.  
25 So --

1 MR. LEBLANC: Your Honor, the only reason I would  
2 make the arguments is, your preliminary thoughts, we agree  
3 with.

4 THE COURT: Yes.

5 MR. LEBLANC: If Your Honor is swayed -- Mr.  
6 Finestone, I think, has told the Court that he doesn't agree  
7 with that, that he needs something more than what's in the  
8 settlement term sheet --

9 THE COURT: I understood him to say that he -- not  
10 that he wants something more than what's in the settlement  
11 term sheet, he thinks it's already there, right?

12 MR. LEBLANC: Well --

13 THE COURT: In fairness, he thinks it's already  
14 there. You know, he's looking for a little bit more from the  
15 Court that I indicated that I'm likely to want to do, but  
16 there are other ways to handle that. Like we can enter an  
17 order that says -- I can enter an order that says you go  
18 ahead and you said what you're going to put in the mediated  
19 agreements in the settlement term sheet, you go ahead and do  
20 that, and I could also say, if there is a dispute, Inmarsat,  
21 to the extent they need it, they have stay relief and they  
22 can go pursue it wherever they need to pursue it. That's a  
23 way to handle it.

24 MR. LEBLANC: Your Honor, what we -- from the  
25 perspective of the company, we need to leave here with the

1 direction as to how we're going to resolve this. If they're  
2 asking -- and, fine, they don't want more than what's in  
3 there, they think they already have it, that's all fine.  
4 They want something from the Court, they're not satisfied --  
5 they did not say yes to the proposition Your Honor had  
6 started this hearing with, we did. That proposition was  
7 let's just take the words, put them in there and we'll deal  
8 with it if and when there's a dispute about it.

9 I am very content to make our arguments and  
10 convince Your Honor that the right interpretation of the  
11 settlement term sheet is inconsistent with what they contend  
12 it to be. I'm also content to make my argument as to why the  
13 co-op agreement limitations they contend exist do not exist,  
14 an issue they say isn't -- they asked for in their motion,  
15 but now tell you is outside of your jurisdiction, I'm content  
16 to make that argument.

17 What I'm not content to do is to not make the  
18 argument and have the Court rule because he's asking you to.  
19 If Your Honor is inclined to rule, then I want to make the  
20 argument. If Your Honor is inclined to do what Your Honor  
21 was intending to do when you came out here and what we've  
22 said we are fine with, tell us to go and take this language  
23 and put it into the amended co-op agreement and into an  
24 Inmarsat agreement that incorporates the mediation term  
25 sheet, then we are done. But I can't be in a position where

1 Your Honor is going to decide this issue, one way or the  
2 other, without us being able to make the substantive  
3 argument.

4 THE COURT: And I would never do that to you --

5 MR. LEBLANC: Okay.

6 THE COURT: -- I would never do that to you.

7 Look, I'm where I started and that's going to be  
8 my ruling. The parties are directed to include the language  
9 that is specifically identified in the settlement term sheet.  
10 If there is a dispute about what it ends up meaning in  
11 concrete terms and practical terms, then there is a way in  
12 that settlement term sheet to deal with that. It provides  
13 where you go if you have a disagreement and you can deal with  
14 it there.

15 So, I think that's all I have to say about it. So  
16 I'm going to ask the parties to put together a form of order,  
17 hopefully that doesn't become the subject of a further  
18 hearing --

19 (Laughter)

20 THE COURT: -- but I think it's a pretty simple  
21 ruling, but one that's going to address, you know, all the  
22 papers in my binder, the various motion, and dispose of them.  
23 But, again, I've really looked at this agreement, I've looked  
24 at everything, and I know that this is the most appropriate  
25 way to deal with it.

1           And, look, I very much appreciate the seriousness  
2 of these issues for all the parties, and I also found that  
3 the arguments were very well made and they reflect sincerely-  
4 held positions that just happen to be just in wild  
5 disagreement. But the request is to enforce the mediation  
6 settlement, that's the request that everybody made, and  
7 that's how I do it, that's how I get to it. Okay?

8           MR. LEBLANC: Your Honor, could we talk for a  
9 moment about timing --

10          THE COURT: Yeah.

11          MR. LEBLANC: -- as it relates then -- because  
12 this then flows in. We have a confirmation hearing scheduled  
13 for next Wednesday.

14          THE COURT: Yes, you do.

15          MR. LEBLANC: And obviously, Your Honor, I think  
16 we need to reduce this to an agreement to do what Your Honor  
17 is directing us to do.

18          THE COURT: Yes.

19          MR. LEBLANC: So I think that's going to take us  
20 probably more time, particularly given that we're on the eve  
21 of Labor Day weekend, more time than next Wednesday, but we  
22 really -- on behalf of the company, I know Your Honor's  
23 schedule is very difficult, but if there were a time the  
24 following week, that would be ideal.

25          THE COURT: That's the week of the 8th -- or --

1 the week of the 8th, right?

2 MR. LEBLANC: Yes, Your Honor, the week of the  
3 8th.

4 THE COURT: I won't be here.

5 MR. LEBLANC: Okay.

6 THE COURT: I'm sorry.

7 MR. LEBLANC: I know the week of the 15th is bad  
8 for the people that we need here. We already have a date on  
9 the 22nd, Your Honor, which I think was the date that  
10 Inmarsat's motion -- I don't know if we've lost that date  
11 because that was the date that Inmarsat's motion was  
12 originally scheduled for.

13 THE COURT: No, we've got you on the calendar on  
14 the 22nd. The one sensitivity I have with that date is that  
15 Rosh Hashanah starts that evening and so it could be  
16 problematic for people. I mean, I'm willing to say certainly  
17 that anybody who would want to appear by Zoom can do so, and  
18 I guess we're only in -- we're only in mid-September at that  
19 point, so we probably don't have to worry about running too  
20 late, but I suspect that people also have things they want to  
21 do with family.

22 So I want to keep that date, I don't want it to be  
23 -- I want to balance those concerns.

24 MR. LEBLANC: No, I totally understand. And, as  
25 Your Honor knows, we filed our -- I don't know if Your Honor



1 knows this -- we filed our voting report and other plan  
2 supplement documents in our reply brief last night, we only  
3 have one objection raised by the United States Trustee to  
4 confirmation, so I don't think it's going to be a very  
5 lengthy hearing.

6 Why don't -- Your Honor, we'll caucus with  
7 everybody, but it sounds like the 22nd is the next available  
8 date that the Court would have for us?

9 THE COURT: Yeah, because the 8th through the  
10 12th, I'm just --

11 MR. LEBLANC: And how about --

12 THE COURT: -- not going to be in Delaware.

13 MR. LEBLANC: -- even next -- how about a week  
14 from today, the 5th, Your Honor, would that fit with the  
15 Court's calendar?

16 THE COURT: I have a confirmation hearing that I  
17 don't expect at this point to be very quick.

18 MR. LEBLANC: Okay.

19 THE COURT: The --

20 MR. LEBLANC: So, let us caucus, Your Honor, and  
21 we'll have --

22 THE COURT: Yeah. I mean --

23 MR. LEBLANC: -- or with Pachulski --

24 THE COURT: -- there's a possibility on the 15th,  
25 I will be here for a day before going out to NCBJ --

1 MS. PRIMOFF: I apologize, we have conflicts on  
2 the 15th.

3 THE COURT: It doesn't work on the 15th? Okay.

4 MR. LEBLANC: We don't have to do this on the fly,  
5 Your Honor. We'll -- if Your Honor can maintain the date of  
6 the 22nd for now with the recognition that it could be hybrid  
7 for those that respect Rosh Hashanah --

8 THE COURT: Yeah. And, you know, it's on for 2  
9 o'clock, as you're all aware, like I've got three hearings  
10 scheduled before that. I don't know if any of them are going  
11 to happen. You know, it's just always the way it goes in  
12 bankruptcy, right? So --

13 MR. LEBLANC: Yes.

14 THE COURT: -- if we can move it up, we'll move it  
15 up --

16 MR. LEBLANC: Okay.

17 THE COURT: -- so that it's earlier in the day and  
18 gives people a little bit more cushion.

19 MR. LEBLANC: We appreciate that, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Yeah, I appreciate it.

21 MR. LEBLANC: And we'll also be in -- we'll be in  
22 contact with chambers with Pachulski to make sure -- with  
23 Pachulski and Richards, Layton to make sure that we can  
24 accommodate that timing, but we'll -- certainly from the  
25 debtors' perspective, Your Honor -- and I will speak for AST,

1 although if she disagrees she can tell me, Ms. Primoff can --  
2 we will work with -- even before we have an order entered, we  
3 will try to get completed on the direction the Court has  
4 given us at this hearing with respect to these issues.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Finestone?

6 MR. FINESTONE: Ben Finestone on behalf of  
7 Inmarsat and Viasat. Thank you, Your Honor. Can I just ask  
8 for some clarification on the Court's ruling or I'll throw  
9 out my interpretation of it.

10 And maybe it's not ambiguous, so I apologize, but  
11 the Court is directing the parties to take the text of the  
12 mediated agreement and basically implement that text without  
13 variance into the new cooperation agreement and to the new  
14 agreement as between my client and AST. The parties are  
15 expected to then perform under that contract, and I'm focused  
16 on AST making the payments that it's obligated to make, and  
17 then -- but one thing that Your Honor is not doing today, and  
18 this is just -- I want to clarify, Your Honor is not  
19 rejecting the notion that there is -- Your Honor is not  
20 ruling on whether there's a case or controversy one way or  
21 the other such that if the parties do have the dispute that  
22 I've been forthright with the Court I do think we think have,  
23 then the parties will be able to go to whatever court has the  
24 appropriate jurisdiction to resolve that dispute. I think  
25 that's Your Honor's ruling. I'm saying it less so for the

1 Court, I think that's what I heard from the Court, but if  
2 either of these other parties disagrees with it, they should  
3 say so now.

4 Thank you, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Yeah. And to put a finer point on it,  
6 paragraph 1 of the settlement term sheet provides and I'm  
7 ordering that the terms of the settlement term sheet be  
8 incorporated into the mediated agreements as applicable, but  
9 also it provides that any further modifications of those  
10 terms can be done with the consent of each consenting  
11 mediation party. So, there's a mechanism if there are agreed  
12 changes.

13 MR. FINESTONE: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay?

15 MR. LEBLANC: We certainly agree with that. The  
16 mediation agreement has been ordered by the Court, we believe  
17 it to have been binding, and I think the point is we've  
18 reached an impasse on trying to come up with words to  
19 translate that language because we don't agree and so we're  
20 just going to use the words of that -- unless we agree to  
21 other words, which is fine, but if we don't, we're just going  
22 to drop it in and try to get this done as quickly as  
23 possible.

24 THE COURT: And I'm probably asking the most  
25 obvious question that I could, but have you thought about

1 going back to Judge Drain and seeing if he can help?

2 MR. LEBLANC: We have certainly talked to him,  
3 Your Honor. I won't tell you what his reaction was, but  
4 we're here.

5 THE COURT: Okay, okay, I understand.

6 MR. FINESTONE: We had no objection to doing that.  
7 I think we proposed it and it was rejected.

8 THE COURT: Okay, okay, that's fine.

9 MR. LEBLANC: Your Honor, it wasn't rejected by  
10 us, if that was the implication. We talked to Judge Drain --

11 THE COURT: I understand, I understand.

12 Okay, that's all for today then?

13 MR. LEBLANC: That's all for Ligado, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay, okay. I appreciate, again, the  
15 very thoughtful papers and the discussion today. Okay?

16 So, have a good weekend. We're adjourned.

17 (Proceedings concluded at 1:48 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter to the best of my knowledge and ability.

/s/ William J. Garling

August 29, 2025

William J. Garling, CET-543

Certified Court Transcriptionist

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